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REVIEW.

ANNALS OF THE DEARBORN OBSERVATORY, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY. VOLUME I. MEASURES OF DOUBLE STARS, BY PHILIP FOX.

It is fitting, as Professor Fox says, that the first volume of publications of the Dearborn Observatory should be one of double star measures, for the 18½-inch refractor was made famous by the discovery with it of the companion to *Sirius* by Mr. A. G. Clark, and by the work of Burnham and of Hough in the discovery and measurement of a large number of double stars.

The introduction consists of an interesting historical account of the Chicago Astronomical Society which purchased the telescope in 1863 and founded the Dearborn Observatory. It will probably be a surprise to many astronomers to read that this society is still in active existence and that the title to the telescope and other instruments of the observatory remain in it. The society itself, however, by the terms of an agreement adopted in 1887, became, with the observatory and instruments, a department of the Northwestern University.

Following this historical sketch comes an account of Professor Fox's investigation of the 18½-inch objective. He tested the lens by the Hartmann method and found that the focal length for the center and edge is somewhat shorter than for the intermediate zones. Such abnormal zones as exist in some other large objectives are absent from the 18½-inch, and the test confirms the excellence of the lens, which had, in fact, been fully established by the discoveries made with it. The color-curve of the objective was also determined and was found to be similar to those of the best visual objectives.

The double star measures, all made by Professor Fox, fall into four parts, the first two being complete series of measures of the pairs discovered by Professors E. S. Holden and F. Küstner, respectively; the third, a long series of measures of miscellaneous stars, and the final one a short series, of pairs discovered by the author. In general each pair was measured on three or more nights, a single night's measure consisting of four settings for position angle and three or more settings for double distance. The accordance of measures shows that the error of measure is small and that these observations will rank with the best of double star measures.

More distant companions for many of the pairs have been measured, principally to supply data for proper motion determinations, and the result is that a casual examination of the book leaves the impression that the majority of the measures are of wide pairs. Closer inspection will show that this is not the case. The present writer estimates that the volume contains measures of about 1,500 separate systems and that in about 900 of them the principal pair has an angular separation of less than 5″. More than 100 of them have measured distances of less than 1″, and some of them, *e. g.*, O Σ 79, approach the limit of the telescope's resolving power.

When one reads in the notes such remarks as "Temperature —16 F.", "Temperature —8 F.", etc., one admires the enthusiasm that warms the observer but congratulates one's self on being located in a milder climate. Other notes relate to the character of the motion, to questions of identification and to questions of priority of discovery. One or two of the latter notes seem to point to a belief on the author's part that priority should be established by the date of first observation. There are arguments in favor of this view, but the present writer is strongly of opinion that the date of publication should decide. Earlier observations of newly announced double stars, as of comets, proper motion stars, etc., are of great interest and value, but do not affect the question of priority.

In the Introduction, it is stated that Professor Safford undertook to observe the zone from +40° to +45° declination for the A. G. Catalog. This, as Professor Fox writes me, should be +35° to +40°. Another error is found on p. 153, where Σ 2084 is called ξ *Herculis* instead of ζ.

It may be aded that the pair Fox 32, given as new on p. 226, is identical with A 2278.

The volume forms a notable addition to our double star literature, and it is a pleasure to know that further work of the same high quality is in prospect.

R. G. Aitken.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC.

Held in the Rooms of the Society on June 27, 1916, at 2:15 p. m.

There were present Directors Cushing, Curtis, Cornish, Markwart and Richardson. Cushing in the Chair.

A resolution was introduced by Director Curtis providing that the Regular Meeting of the Society for the month of June be omitted. Carried.

Colonel Thomas L. Casey, U. S. A., was elected a Life Member of the Society.

The following were elected as Active Members:

Frederick A. Wilson,
Lorenzo L. Snow,
D. S. Swan,
Bernard Bienenfeld,
Hans B. Bauer.

The following were elected as Student Members:

F. J. Neubauer
and
C. D. Shane.

The Smith College Observatory, of Beloit, Wis., was elected as an Institutional Member.

Adjourned.

D. S. Richardson,
Secretary.